

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

House Meets At...	Votes Predicted At...
10:00 a.m. For Legislative Business Ten "One-minutes" Per Side	Last Vote: 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Any anticipated Member absences for votes this week should be reported to the Office of the Majority Whip at 226-3210.

Floor Schedule and Procedure

- **Suspension Bills:** Today, the House will consider several bills on the Suspension calendar. Bills considered on the Suspension calendar are debatable for 40 minutes; may not be amended; and require a two-thirds vote for passage. If a recorded vote is requested, it will be postponed.
 1. **S. 22** - Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Sen. Bingaman – Natural Resources)
 2. **H.Res. 224** - Supporting the designation of Pi Day (Rep. Gordon – Science and Technology)
 3. **H.Res. 67** - Recognizing and commending the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), and Cornell University for the success of the Mars Exploration Rovers, Spirit and Opportunity, on the 5th anniversary of the Rovers' successful landing (Rep. Dreier – Science and Technology)
 4. **H.Con.Res. 64** – Urging the President to designate 2009 as the "Year of the Military Family" (Rep. Skelton – Armed Services)
 5. **H.Res. 226** - Recognizing the plight of the Tibetan people on the 50th Anniversary of His Holiness the Dalai Lama being forced into exile, and calling for a sustained multilateral effort to bring about a durable and peaceful solution to the Tibet issue (Rep. Holt – Foreign Affairs)
 6. **H.Res. 125** - Calling on the central authority of Brazil to immediately discharge all its duties under the Hague Convention by facilitating and supporting Federal judicial proceedings as a matter of extreme urgency to obtain the return of Sean Goldman to his father, David Goldman, for immediate return to the United States (Rep. Smith (NJ) – Foreign Affairs)

7. **H.Res. 194** - Supporting the goals of International Women's Day (Rep. Schakowsky – Foreign Affairs)
- **Postponed Suspension Vote:**
 1. **H.Con.Res. 38** - Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service (Rep. Holmes Norton – Transportation and Infrastructure)

Bill Summary & Key Issues

S. 22: The Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009

This omnibus legislation combines more than 160 individual measures reported by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee during the 110th Congress, including 73 bills already passed by the House. The Senate has elected to combine these measures for procedural reasons and passed the bill 73-21 on January 15, 2009.

The bill includes measures affecting the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Geological Survey within the Department of the Interior as well as the Forest Service within the Agriculture Department, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Commerce Department and the Smithsonian Institution. The package combines wilderness designations, land conveyances and exchanges, river and trail designations, historic preservation measures, and important water settlements.

Among the bill's most prominent individual pieces are wilderness proposals in West Virginia, California, New Mexico, Colorado and Oregon, authorization for the National Landscape Conservation System within the BLM, important forest landscape restoration legislation, the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement, and the Christopher and Dana Reeve Paralysis Act.

Enactment of S. 22 will strengthen our National Park System as it nears its centennial anniversary, improve forest health, facilitate better management of our public lands through authorization of the National Landscape Conservation System and increase the quantity and quality of water provided to numerous local communities. In addition, invaluable historic and cultural resources, including the sacred ground of American battlefields, will receive better protection under this legislation.

The bill will include an amendment regarding management of hunting, fishing and trapping which has the full support of the National Rifle Association.

Each of these bills is an important accomplishment for its sponsor and the constituents who support it; taken as a whole, this package is truly landmark legislation which will improve the quality of life for millions of people in communities across the country.

Quote of the Day

“We have a powerful potential in our youth, and we must have the courage to change old ideas and practices so that we may direct their power toward good ends.”

- Mary McLeod Bethune

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